
TO THE PUBLIC.

Sentiments of humanity will naturally lead every feeling heart to alleviate the distresses of our fellow creatures. The most hardened perhaps cannot survey the miseries to which the Natives of the coast of Africa are subjected, without emotion, till self-interest has stifled the calls of Justice and Conscience. The wretchedness of so great a portion of mankind has led many well-disposed persons in England to endeavour to relieve their sufferings; and a Gentleman who distinguished himself, when famine in the 1782 raged in Shetland, by obtaining a very ample subscription in England for the inhabitants, has transmitted the following papers to this country, hoping for its aid and countenance, in contributing to the relief of the Negro Slaves. Although the subscriptions have been pretty liberal in England, yet as the measure is likely to meet with opposition, the assistance of this part of the Kingdom is requested.

Those who incline to aid this laudable undertaking, will please send their subscriptions to **ALEXANDER ALISON, Esq;** Excise-office, Edinburgh; or to any of the Gentlemen whose names are printed at the end of the Subscription-Paper herewith sent.



P A P E R S

R E S P E C T I N G T H E

S L A V E T R A D E.

LONDON, 15th *January* 1788.

At a Committee of the Society, in-
stituted for the Purpose of effect-
ing the ABOLITION of the SLAVE
TRADE,

RESOLVED, That the following Re-
port be circulated for the general In-
formation of the Society.

THIS Committee would gladly have availed
themselves of the sentiments and instructions
of a General Meeting of the Society, in prosecuting
the important objects of their appointment; but the

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remote situation of most of the subscribers creates a difficulty which cannot easily be obviated. The Committee, however, beg leave to assure them, that due attention will be paid to such communications as they may be favoured with from individual members, and which it seems impracticable to obtain from the collective body.

The information and arguments on this subject, contained in various publications, have fully evinced the injustice and inhumanity of the Slave Trade. The Committee have expended a considerable sum in printing and dispersing such Tracts; but as they are fully persuaded, that no further arguments are necessary on that head, they have more particularly directed their attention to the plea of political necessity, which is frequently urged to justify, or, at least, to palliate this traffic. For though it can by no means be admitted, that the greatest commercial advantages ought to preponderate, when opposed to the plainest dictates of religion and morality, yet the Committee are not insensible of the natural influence which interest has, in biasing the judgments of men, and of how much importance it is to convince the public, that the commerce of this kingdom, and even the interest of the Slave-holders themselves, will be advanced by the success of our endeavours.

With this view the Committee have been, and still are, engaged, at no inconsiderable expence, in promoting

promoting inquiries into the nature and conduct of the Slave Trade. These inquiries have not only produced fresh instances of the cruelties perpetrated on the wretched natives of Africa, but have established a fact hitherto but little known, namely, the destruction of our own seamen; for it appears that the lives of a very considerable proportion of those engaged in this trade, are annually sacrificed to the nature of the service, and the extreme severity of their treatment. To the abilities and unremitting assiduity of the Rev. Mr Thomas Clarkson, in these researches, the Society are much indebted.

It must be acknowledged, that the amount of British manufactures exported to the coasts of Africa, for the purposes of this commerce, is considerable; but there is room to apprehend, that the demand for these would be much greater, if, in the place of it, was substituted an amicable intercourse, which, instead of spreading distress and devastation amongst the unoffending inhabitants, would introduce the blessings of peace and civilization. The Committee find, that several vessels have, for some time, been solely employed in the importation of many valuable productions of that country, of essential advantage to the manufactures of this; and they are in possession of sundry specimens of its produce, which confirm their belief, that the confidence of the natives being once esta-

blished, a trade may be opened with them, which, without interfering with the principal staple commodities of our West-India Colonies, would speedily become of great national importance.

The Committee have several well authenticated accounts of estates in the West-Indies, on which the number of Negroes has been not only supported, but increased, without any foreign supply, for many years; a circumstance which affords the strongest proof, that the nature of the case will admit, that a proper attention to the principles of humanity in their treatment, would preclude the necessity of any further supplies from the coasts of Africa.

The Committee feel it their duty to diffuse the information they have obtained as generally as possible, and more particularly to avail themselves of every opportunity (in which they earnestly request the assistance of every individual) of impressing on the minds of our Legislators, the necessity of entering into a serious investigation of the subject; and they have great satisfaction in reporting, that many very respectable Members of both Houses of Parliament, have assured them of their disposition to promote our design.

The applications of the Committee have generally met with a cordial reception, and indeed persons of respectable situation, in many parts of the kingdom, have afforded unsolicited support. Several

ral men of learning have espoused the cause in vari-
ous publications. The Clergy of the established
Church, and the Ministers amongst the Dissenters,
there is good reason to believe, are in general sin-
cere friends to the undertaking. Members of both
Universities have expressed themselves in terms of
approbation of the plan; and, together with these,
the spirited exertions of Manchester, Birmingham,
and other principal manufacturing towns, afford
ground to hope that a species of oppression, so dis-
graceful to the nation, will at length be abolished
by general consent. And they trust that, whatever
difficulties may attend their progress, by a steady
perseverance the Society will eventually be instru-
mental to the success of a cause, in which are in-
volved the honour of this country, and the happi-
ness of millions of our fellow-creatures.

During the attention of the Committee to the
business, undoubted accounts have been received
from North America, of the good conduct and ca-
pacity of many of the Negroes resident there, with
specimens of their improvement in useful learning,
at a school established in Philadelphia for their edu-
cation, which satisfactorily prove the absurdity of
the notion, that their understandings are not equal-
ly susceptible of cultivation with those of white
people.

The Committee have likewise received informa-
tion from France, that there is a probability of a

Society being established there on the same principles as our own.

The present amount of subscriptions received is £. 1367 : 8 : 2, and of our payments already made, £. 514 : 17 : 10. Though it is foreseen that the future expences in this busines will be considerable, it is impossible to ascertain the amount ; but the liberal contributions now reported, leave no room to doubt that such further assistance will be cheerfully given as will be requisite to complete the purposes of the institution. The Committee trust it is unnecessary to add, that to these purposes only they shall be faithfully applied.

Signed, by order of the Committee,

GRANVILLE SHARP, CHAIRMAN.

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S U M M A R Y V I E W

O F T H E

S L A V E T R A D E,

A N D T H E

P R O B A B L E C O N S E Q U E N C E S O F I T S

A B O L I T I O N.

SOCIETY instituted in 1787, for the Purpose of effecting the ABOLITION of the SLAVE TRADE.

ENCOURAGED by the success which has attended the publication of sundry Tracts against Slavery, this Society was formed in order to excite still more the public attention to the *Slave Trade*, and to collect such evidence or information as may tend to its discouragement, and finally to its abolition.

For these purposes (which have been already attended with, and cannot be effected without, considerable expence) a Subscription has been opened, and a Committee, whose names are annexed, appointed to manage the funds.

The principal aim of the Society is to promote, among the Members of both Houses of Parliament,

a disposition to enquire into this inhuman traffic ; and they have the satisfaction already to number, amongst the friends of the cause, several men of distinguished character and abilities, who enter into the business with a zeal, which affords a reasonable ground to hope for the accomplishment of the design.

They have also the peculiar pleasure of seeing men of different religious denominations unite, with true Christian harmony, in the cause of humanity and justice.

This Tract is intended to give a Summary View of the Slave Trade, and is meant to be generally distributed amongst those, whose exertions or subscriptions may be expected.

If this trade should become, as there is reason to hope it will, a subject of Parliamentary investigation early in this session, it is to be wished that the general sense of the Nation (which without doubt is in favour of liberty, justice, and humanity) may be expressed by Petitions to Parliament, and by applications to their Representatives, in order to procure their assistance. In the distribution of the Tracts, it is therefore recommended that this purpose may be kept in view.

The Society will thankfully receive any Communications on this Subject, addressed to the Chairman at their Office, No. 18, in the Old Jewry ; or to the Treasurer in Lombard Street, London.

Names

NAMES of the Committee appointed for procuring Information and Evidence, and for directing the Application of such Moneys as are already, or may be hereafter collected for the Purposes of this Institution.

GRANVILLE SHARPE, Esq; Chairman, Leadenhall Street.

Mr SAMUEL HOARE, *jun.* Treasurer, Lombard Street.

C O M M I T T E E.

Mr Robert Barclay, Clapham, Surry.

Mr John Barton, Milk Street, Cheapside.

Rev. Thomas Clarkson, Chancery Lane, London, or Wisbeach, Cambridgeshire.

Mr William Dillwyn, Walthamstow, Essex.

Mr George Harrison, Wood Street, Cheapside.

Mr Joseph Hooper, Walworth, Surry.

Mr John Lloyd, Tower Hill, London.

James Martin, Esq; M. P. Downing Street, Westminster.

Mr James Phillips, George Yard, Lombard Street.

Mr Richard Phillips, Lincoln's Inn.

William Morton Pitt, Esq; M. P. Arlington Street.

Mr Philip Sansom, London Street.

Mr John Vickris Taylor, St Helen's, Bishopsgate Street.

Mr Josiah Wedgwood, Greek Street, Soho, or Etruria, Staffordshire.

Mr

Mr Joseph Woods, White-Hart Court, Grace-Church Street.

N. B. The Subscriptions of such as are disposed to contribute towards carrying on the design of this Society, will be received by the Treasurer, or by any Member of the Committee; or by Sir Herbert Mackworth, Baronet; Dorset, Johnson, and Wilkinson, Bankers, No. 68, New Bond Street.

A SUMMARY VIEW, &c.

I. *Slaves are acquired by Means of War.*

OBSERVATION. THESE wars are, for the most part, entered into by the parties concerned, without any previous injury on either side, and for no other motive, than to furnish slaves for the Europeans, by whom they have been supplied with arms and ammunition, and frequently bribed, for the purpose. During some of these wars, the victors have been so incensed at the resistance they have found, that their spirit of vengeance has entirely prevailed over their avarice, and, though they have engaged in the conflict for the express purpose of procuring slaves, they have been

been known to murder every individual, without discrimination either of age or sex.

II. Slaves are acquired in Consequence of Crimes.

OBSERVATION.—Before the slave-trade commenced, criminals were punished in Africa, much in the same manner as those among other nations in the same stage of Society; but since the introduction of this trade, *all* crimes have been punished with slavery. Every artifice has been used by the Prince to entice the subject to become a criminal. Acts, formerly esteemed innocent, have been deemed crimes, for the sake of inflicting the punishment. New distinctions have also been made in crimes, that additional punishments might succeed. The offender, in one instance, forfeits his own freedom; in a second, that of the male part of his family, together with his own: in a third, the whole family suffer; and, in a fourth, the relations of the offender as far as they can be traced. And thus many thousands of innocent persons have been consigned to slavery.

III. Slaves are acquired by Virtue of the Right of Empire in the Prince.

OBSERVATION.—The Prince considers his villages, as so many parks or reservoirs, stocked for his

his own luxury and use. When the black broker tempts him with his merchandise, and crimes and war have not furnished him with a number adequate to the demand, he seizes certain villagers, who are put into chains, and led, whole families together, to the ships.

This is particularly the case with the King of Dahomy, who rules his subjects with such despotic sway, as to apprehend no resistance, on their part, to his measures.

However, in other parts of the country, the mode of seizing them is a little varied. The King goes with his guards to one of his villages in the night ; he surrounds it, and sets it on fire ; the poor villagers, flying in consternation from the flames, fall into the hands of their tyrant. This mode, therefore, differs from the former in this respect only, that many are terribly burnt on the occasion, and others perish.

IV. *Slaves are acquired by Kidnapping.*

OBSERVATION.—Slave-hunters, consisting of the natives, are employed in the inland country to kidnap the unwary. They lie in wait frequently in the rice-fields, to carry off all such as may be stationed there for the purpose of driving the birds from the grain. They lie in wait also at the springs of water, to which the natives resort to quench their

their thirst, and in thickets by the sides of creeks, to fall upon those solitary beings, who fish there either for amusement or for food: But their principal station is in the long grass, by the side of particular path-ways, which are cut from one village to another, from which they spring out upon their prey, and secure it.

But the natives are not the only people concerned in these iniquitous practices. The British traders have enticed the natives to the shore, for the purposes of trade; they have tempted them there with biscuits, with brandy, and other spirits; and, having made them intoxicated, they have forced them on board, and sailed off with them to the Colonies.

These are the various methods by which slaves have been usually obtained; and so successful have these practices been, that *many millions* of people, since the introduction of the trade, have been actually put on board European ships, and consigned to slavery.

Many of the slaves, acquired by these methods, have been brought 1200 miles from the inland country, and have been obliged to pass through inhospitable woods and deserts, where *thousands* of them have died through fatigue and thirst.

The annual exportation from Africa, consists of about *one hundred thousand* people. Of these, more than 20,000 die on their voyage, from close

confinement, and other causes ; and at least that number in the seasoning ; so that, if to these we add the number that die in the different wars, and those that perish in the long and fatiguing march before described, it will appear, that about *an hundred thousand* are *annually* murdered, even before the planter can say he has any additional stock for his plantation.

Of those that survive the voyage and seasoning, it may be said, that being subjected in many instances, to the most cruel and despotic treatment, they perish in a few years ; and scarcely a vestige is to be found, that an hundredth part of this immense body of people, annually enslaved upon the coast, had *ever been in existence.*

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THE Author, from whom these observations are mostly taken, and whose * book treats of the *injustice* and *inhumanity* of the Slave Trade, is now preparing

* An Essay on the Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species, particularly the African, translated from a Latin Dissertation, which was honoured with the first prize in the University of Cambridge, for the year 1785, with additions. By T. Clarkson.

paring a sequel to the said work, comprehending the *impolicy* of it, and the consequences that are likely to arise from its *abolition*.

The work is divided into two parts.

P A R T I.

I. Africa has two sorts of commodities to offer, viz. The *productions of its soil*, and *negroe-slaves*.

As it is impossible that we can trade successfully in both of them at the same time, (one of them having hitherto proved an insuperable impediment to the other,) the question is, in which of the two it is most *politic* to deal.

The one is replete with misery and destruction to the human race, and is beneficial but to a *few individuals*; whereas the other, consisting of cotton, indigo, tobacco, rice, coffee, spices, drugs, mahogany, dyeing woods, wax, ambergris, honey, ivory, gold, &c. would be of *national* advantage, as it would amply repay us for the loss of America, break the monopoly of the Dutch, be the cheapest market for raw materials for our manufacturers, open a new and extensive market for our manufactures, improve the Revenue, and be attended with other public benefits.

II. The negroe-trade, as has been observed before, is profitable but to a few ; it is ruinous to some, and it is hazardous at the best : None of which circumstances would be peculiar to the other trade.

III. The negroe-trade is bad, in one point of view, both for the merchant and manufacturer. The former receives for his slaves bills at eighteen, twenty-four, and sometimes thirty-six months after eight. The credit, which the latter is obliged to give, is eighteen months. Whereas the merchant and manufacturer in the trade alluded to, would receive their returns twice, if not three times, within the year.

IV. The negroe-trade destroys, from the very *nature of it*, near 2000 seamen annually. The loss of these is of the utmost importance to a people, whose welfare, nay, whose existence, in the present political situation of Europe, as a commercial nation, depends upon their naval strength and importance. This loss can never be compensated by any emoluments, which individuals may obtain in the trade. Whereas the trade alluded to, even if the *same ships* and *men* were employed, would not dissipate them as at present, but become a *nursery* instead of being a *grave*.

V. The negroe-trade, (i. e.) a branch of it, by enabling the French to clear and cultivate new land in St Domingo, (which they are unable to do to the extent of their wishes, without our assistance,) is replete with the most pernicious consequences to the British nation.

This Island, if fully cultivated, can produce more sugar than all our islands together. Every lot of slaves, which we import there, enables them to clear an additional acre. Every acre so gained supplies additional produce. This produce employs additional ships to old France. Nor does the evil stop here. A new fleet of ships is raised for them in exporting this produce to other countries. Now, if we consider that French ships carry double the number of men that ours of the same burden do, we shall find that we are enabling our enemies, by this branch of the trade, to dispute with us the sovereignty of the seas.

P A R T II.

The first section contains an account of *seven* plantations, which have wanted *no* supplies for some years. But it must be observed, that on these plantations the negroes were treated with humanity, and population was encouraged. Indeed on one of them, where the treatment was su-

perior to that of the rest, the numbers increased so much, that the plantation was overstocked.

The Author shews, from these instances, that if a planter treats his slaves well, and encourages population, they *must* increase. But that, if the same plantation falls into the hands of an avaricious and unfeeling man, it must go back in a few years, and require supplies.

He then states, that if the Slave Trade is abolished, the planters will be obliged to treat their slaves with humanity, and encourage population; and, of course, that the islands can never be in want of cultivators.

He then goes into the various causes of the diminution of slaves in the colonies; and shews, that all these causes will be removed if the Slave Trade is abolished.

One of them is this: When a slave-ship arrives in the colonies, her cargo invariably consists of two thirds male, and the remainder female. This is but a bad proportion of the sexes for propagation. But when they are put up to sale, an avaricious planter, who can give a better price than his neighbour, and who will not suffer the pregnancy of women to stop the work of his plantation, buys them in a still greater disproportion, *viz.* in that of five to one; his views being chiefly confined to the males. The females fall mostly to the lot of

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the indigent and involved, who cannot favour them. Hence a separation of the sexes ; otherwise it would never happen that so many thousands of both sexes, annually imported into the colonies, should pass away, in a little time, and scarcely leave a seed behind them.

Now (says the Author) if the importations are stopped, and sufficient previous notice is given of the event, the avaricious planter, who formerly purchased males alone, will be obliged at the next sales to purchase females ; while those on the other hand, who have the greatest proportion of females, will in their turn purchase males.

He then shows, that much more work will be done in the same time ; that the planters will be richer and happier ; that the islands will be free from the insurrections, with which they are now continually harassed ; that the numerous suicides which happen, all of which are a considerable loss to the planter, will be prevented ; that the waste lands in the colonies, to a prodigious extent, will be cleared and cultivated ; that the revenue will, of course, be greatly improved ; and that a foundation will be laid for a general emancipation at last, and for a conversion to Christianity. Which, if they take place, will not only be of considerable advantage to the slaves themselves, but to the planters ; as their estates (so much is the balance

lance in favour of free labour) will be doubly valuable.

To these considerations he adds, that if the plan of the abolition of the Slave Trade takes place with the English alone, *many thousand lives will be annually saved.*

A LETTER to the Treasurer of the Society instituted for the purpose of effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, from the Rev. ROBERT BOUCHER NICKOLLS, Dean of Middleham.

London, No. 18. Old Jewry, Oct. 30. 1787.

At a Committee of the Society instituted for the purpose of effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade,

A letter from the Rev. Robert Boucher Nickolls, Dean of Middleham, addressed to the Treasurer, having been read,

RESOLVED,

That the thanks of this Committee be given to the Rev. Robert Boucher Nickolls, Dean of Middleham,

dleham, for his interesting letter of the 19th inst. and for the offer of his services: And this Committee being sensible of the advantage that may accrue to the cause of humanity by the publication of the said letter, the Chairman is requested to solicit the Dean of Middleham's leave to circulate the same in print.

GRANVILLE SHARP, Chairman.

Middleham, Yorkshire, Oct. 19. 1787.

S. I. R.

I TAKE the liberty of troubling you in consequence of an advertisement I have just seen, in the York paper, by which I find several humane gentlemen, to their infinite honour, have notified their design to move in Parliament for the abolition of the Slave Trade. Being myself a native of the West Indies, though established in this country, I feel myself interested in the cause you have nobly espoused, and wish to contribute my mite of information, to which your public invitation encourages me.

I conceive, Sir, if it can be proved that the natural increase of the negroes already in the islands would be fully adequate to the cultivation of them, and that such natural increase would be secured by humane

humane treatment, no argument could then be brought against the abolition of this accursed traffic, but from the private interest of a few individuals, on this side of the Atlantic chiefly.

Though it must be from a number of facts that the above position can derive incontrovertible evidence, yet I will state one or two remarkable ones, referring you to persons in London to authenticate them in a better manner than I am able to do.

About seventeen or eighteen years ago, a Mr Macmahon died upon his estate in the parish of St George, in the island of Barbadoes. The estate was valued, as well as I can remember, at about L. 30,000 that money. Its late possessor had been in possession of it seven or eight years; but finding it incumbered with a debt to a merchant in London, he resolved to pay off this incumbrance by extraordinary exertions; in consequence of which, he destroyed the health and lives of many of his negroes*. He was therefore obliged to supply their place with others purchased from time to time during the space of seven years; till, at length, upon his

* Since writing the above, a gentleman of the island has assured me it was ascertained from a negro-levy (or poll-tax) that in two years the number of Macmahon's slaves was lessened nearly one half, *i. e.* from 170 to 95, by his severity; and that it was his usual boast he did not desire a newly purchased slave to live longer than four years, in which time he could be sufficiently repaid for the purchase.

his own demise, his estate was left precisely in the same state of incumbrance he found it ; the money lost by the death of his slaves being found equal to the original debt upon his estate.

Nearly about the same time, or a little before, died Dr Mapp of the same island, a gentleman who possessed an estate of less value than that above mentioned, being (as I believe) but about the value of L. 20,000 currency ; in a situation more subject to drought, in a soil less rich, and at a greater distance from market. This gentleman was rather the patriarch than the master among his negroes. Of provisions they had a plentiful supply ; his tenderness gave them a long respite from labour during the heat of the day, from eleven to three, and proper refreshments were added in the sultry interval without any labour of their own. Thus fostered by a fatherly care, their increase was wonderful. Another estate, on which there were no negroes, was purchased, in order to receive the overflow from the original estate ; which purchased estate was, I believe, of the value of L. 12,000 currency. The daughter of this gentleman had a suitable fortune, and the son inherited a clear fortune of above L. 40,000 : more than double the original estate. The daughter is married to a most respectable gentleman, of good fortune, H. A. Esq; who will, I dare say, being a person of great humanity, certify you further on a subject that does so much honour

to the memory of his lady's excellent father; for it is of importance to ascertain these particulars with minute exactness. I presume the well known house of L—— can authenticate the former relation, if it be as I heard it in the island, at the funeral of that inhuman person Macmahon. Having now no connection with the West Indies, and residing at a distance from town, my communications to you can be of little more service than pointing out the quarter from whence you may derive better information; yet I have not knowingly exaggerated any thing; or misinformed you intentionally.

It is very certain that negroes multiply in warm climates in an infinitely greater proportion than in cold! Even extreme heat does not incommodate them; nor are they so liable as the white people to the disorders of warm climates, when their blood is not impoverished by extreme labour, scanty or unwholesome diet. In the West India islands, and in the southern colonies of North America, they will be full of health and vigour at those seasons, when the whites are affected with fevers and agues, and have swollen legs and jaundiced faces. But if the blacks are diseased with slow fevers and dysenteries, is there any wonder in it, when we consider that milk and fresh meat they never taste? Their food consists of maize, vegetables, and either a little ran-
cid salt fish, or (rarely) a small portion of salt beef

or

or pork from Ireland, that is of the worst quality the market affords ; and their drink is, *commonly*, water from ponds, *occasionally* with a little rum in it ; and in the rainy seasons they are not always withdrawn from their labours to shelter.

In the northern provinces of North America, (where also I have resided), from the severity of the climate, the increase of the blacks is small (indeed there are few of them), their natural complexion of glossy black is changed to a dark unhealthy tawney, and they are soon old. But warm climates are congenial to them ; in them, with tolerable treatment, they are prolific and long-lived. It must therefore be the ill treatment they receive in the islands that renders yearly supplies of new slaves necessary to keep up the number on the plantations : where, when they arrive, many, from the loss of their liberty, their friends and country, pine to death ; some destroy themselves ; few, if any, are capable of much labour till the second or third year. And it is a known fact, that when the planters find new recruits requisite for the cultivation of their estates, they not only prefer native slaves, but will give a considerably greater price for them.

Why then, it may be said, is any planter so blind to his own interest as not to treat his slaves in a manner that would amply repay his humane attention ? Some persons do, and find their account in it.

Still this practice is not general ; far from it. The planter has passions upon which there is no check in law in favour of the negroe, for whose murder (if the property is vested in him) he is not accountable to the magistrate. The planter, from extravagancies in this country, from riotous living in his own, and not unfrequently from bad crops, is often deeply embarrassed with debts to the British merchant ; or eager to make a fortune, he trusts more to present exactions of labour and parsimonious savings, than to the future product of humanity, or future recompence of liberality. I speak generally : I know there are amiable exceptions ; but exceptions imply a rule to the contrary. And, lastly, the planter, confirmed in habit, inflexible in obstinacy, and rooted in prejudice, is unwilling to try the effect of a lenient and novel system ; from which, to say the truth, the vices of his slaves (what can be expected from slaves ?) render him often averse.

With respect to the force of prejudice in our islands, we know how invincibly unwilling the white people are to admit the slaves to the privileges of Christianity ; to which I believe the venerable Society for propagating the gospel in foreign parts, can give ample testimony. And why, upon the foot of humanity, I ask the question, are these poor people to be excluded from those comforts of our religion which its Founder commanded to be tendered

tendered equally unto all ? They are under no incapacity which they do not owe to us. At New York I have seen from twenty to forty black communicants. The people in our *islands* not only *neglect*, but *object* to the conversion of their slaves, upon pleas, which, if admitted originally, would have annihilated Christianity at its first appearance.

In the continuation of Lord Clarendon's History, we find, that, in his time, the number of white inhabitants was 50,000 ; and of blacks, if I rightly recollect, 100,000 in the island of Barbadoes : about twenty-five years since, the numbers, by actual enumeration, were of whites less than 25,000 ; of negroes 90,000. Now, though the number of whites has apparently diminished in a greater proportion than that of the blacks, yet it is to be observed, that the blacks are stationary, they do not migrate ; the whites do : nor is the increase of the whites from new comers in a greater proportion than the number of natives that migrate or live elsewhere : besides, that the climate is more in favour of the blacks than of the whites. It is now, in round numbers, a hundred years since Lord Clarendon wrote his Continuation. In this space of time, the whites have diminished about one half ; the number of blacks have lessened in the proportion of nine to ten, notwithstanding the yearly importation of 5000, as I have heard : but stating it only at 4000, or even

3000, that would prove the original stock of blacks to have been lost just so many times over, *i. e.* five, four, or three, in the space of a century, besides the diminution from 100,000 to 90,000; so that while the whites, in a climate less favourable to them, have lost only one half of their original stock, the blacks have lost it four or five times over. How near all these particulars are to the precise fact, I have not the means of ascertaining; but in a general view, I believe they are sufficiently near to shew that the blacks in our islands are diminished, through maltreatment, in a proportion, which, were it to prevail equally in all countries, in a century would depopulate the globe. But I think it would be worth while to examine accurately into these particulars, as an average calculation of the loss humanity sustains in our islands, would be an argument that *no man*, with the feelings of *a man*, could have the face to reply to. I think too the amount of the annual import of slaves into our islands might be easily ascertained here at home, from the accounts of sales; that amount might be compared with the exports of produce from the islands; and the comparison would shew how much of his produce the planter loses, and the proportionate charge upon it, which the consumer pays, for a traffic that a little time and some humanity would render useless.

The

The immediate and effectual remedy for the diminution of slaves in the islands, would be the *entire abolition of the Slave Trade*. This would necessarily oblige the planter to such care of his negroes, as would at once essentially serve the cause of humanity, without giving him any occasion for the plea that his rights are infringed, or his property invaded; for surely, however he may have acquired a property of the slaves now under his dominion, he can have none in those who are not: he can have no greater right to recruit his gang with the inhabitants of Guinea, than with the inhabitants of Britain. Nor can the British merchant be better entitled to buy or sell the inhabitants of Guinea, than the inhabitants of Guinea are to buy or sell him. Let him suppose himself at Algiers, and ask himself what he would think of his chains, or of the right that imposed them. What *if it were true*, that the British merchant buys only the captives taken in war, war is made in Guinea that the captives may be sold to him? It is the receiver of stolen goods that makes the thief:

For all the blood spilt in such wars, for all the villages set in flames by the contending parties, for all the ravages incident to war, for all the tears and sufferings of captives whose attachments are violently broken, for all the cruelties they endure in the course of their voyage, or under a rigid taskmaster when sold for slaves, the merchant is to an-

fwer. He sets up self-interest as his idol, and stabs humanity as the sacrifice to it. And shall the rest of the world sit down quietly, and suffer their common humanity to be thus injured and insulted, that the trader may eat turtle, and the daughter of the skipper of a vessel flounce in silks or muslins ?

But it is a branch of national commerce, and is allowed by the legislature. So, anciently, among the states of Greece was piracy not only allowed, but esteemed honourable. But in a matter so evidently contrary to every principle of common justice, where is the man, with shame in his face, or honesty in his heart, that in a national assembly will *dare* avow such a cause ? If we admit the plea, *from necessity*, for such a traffic, where shall we stop ? Is not the plea of the robber who is hanged, as good ? *Fiat justitia, ruat cælum.* The friends of liberty must, upon their own principles, reprobate this worst species of tyranny : The *worst*, because no other has so blasting an effect on morals, no other so thoroughly vitiates the heart. The Christian cannot countenance it ; his Bible shews him, that “men-stealers” are classed with “murderers of fathers and mothers, and perjured persons,” 1 Tim. chap. i. ver. 10. And will he mix in such a crew ? Will he give them his influence and support ? They who read and believe their Bible, may learn from the histories and prophecies it contains, that though Divine Providence is pleased to permit one nation

to oppress another, and though the oppressing power be the scourge of Divine Justice, yet vengeance will revert to the oppressor at last, because he seeks the injury, not the reformation, of the oppressed. And therefore believers in a Divine Providence will see much to dread in the encouragement of the Slave Trade.

Could that infernal traffic be annihilated, the condition of slavery in the islands would be meliorated ; the native negroes would be more tractable, more readily acquire the regard of those among whom they were born ; and be more easily converted to Christianity, because they might be more easily informed. At length, by the mild and uniform operation of Christian principles, slavery itself might be abolished. For though Christianity, at its first promulgation, for obvious reasons, did not affect to introduce any alteration in the civil rights of men, yet its genuine tendency is friendly to civil liberty, as Montesquieu has observed in its favour, and Gibbon has dared to allege to its reproach. That *slavery* is not at all necessary to the cultivation of the sugar-cane, is evident ; for Sicily, within a few centuries, manufactured sugar, as Cochin China now does, without any assistance from slaves. But were it otherwise, what would, what should, be the choice of Britons ; to have sugar in their tea, or to set nations free from the scourge, the chain, and the yoke.

To

To the planter, the prohibition of the Slave Trade would be immediately beneficial, and the benefit would be progressive with time, as it would immediately raise the value of his negroes, whose numbers also would be increased by a melioration of the system of slavery :

To the British merchant it would be equally beneficial, in a similar manner ; for none of the produce of the islands being expended in the purchase of slaves, more would be left for the payment of debts to Britain :

To the British nation it would be beneficial, because the planter, cultivating the sugar-cane at less expence, could afford his produce at a lower rate ; because, also, seamen and soldiers would not be sent to perish in the unhealthy climates of Africa :

To the American States it would afford a proof, that we are no less friendly to liberty than they, who have already shewn to us an example, in this respect, which we ought first to have given :

To all the world it would prove our equity and humanity :

To nations yet unborn it will transmit liberty and happiness.

To the reign of George the III. it will give peculiar lustre, and exhibit him as the friend of mankind at large, whom the noblest zeal in the support of piety and morals at home, distinguishes as the real father of his people !

I have not, Sir, intentionally mis-stated any circumstance, and I am out of the way of more correct information. What I have written is dictated by an ardent wish for the success of your cause.

I have some pamphlets which have been published upon this subject, and will circulate them among my neighbours.

I am, SIR,

With great Respect,
Your most obedient
Humble servant,

R. BOUCHER NICKOLLS,
DEAN of MIDDLEHAM.

*Samuel Hoare, jun. Esq;
Lombard-street, London.*

A LIST of the SOCIETY, instituted in
1787, for the Purpose of effecting the
ABOLITION of the SLAVE TRADE.

ENCOURAGED by the success which has attended the publication of sundry Tracts against Slavery, this Society was formed in order to excite still more the public attention to the *Slave Trade*,
and

and to collect such evidence or information as may tend to its discouragement, and, finally, to its abolition.

For these purposes (which have been already attended with, and cannot be effected without, considerable expence) a Subscription has been opened, and a Committee, whose names are annexed, appointed to manage the funds.

The principal aim of the Society is to promote, among the Members of both Houses of Parliament, a disposition to inquire into this inhuman traffic; and they have the satisfaction already to number, amongst the friends of the cause several men of distinguished character and abilities, who enter into the business with a zeal, which affords a reasonable ground to hope for the accomplishment of the design.

They have also the peculiar pleasure of seeing men of different religious denominations unite with true Christian harmony, in the cause of humanity and justice.

If this trade should become, as there is reason to hope it will, a subject of Parliamentary investigation early in this sessions, it is to be wished that the general sense of the Nation (which, without doubt, is in favour of liberty, justice, and humanity) may be expressed by Petitions to Parliament, and by applications to their Representatives, in order to procure their assistance. In the distribution

of

of the Tracts, it is therefore recommended that this purpose may be kept in view.

The Society will thankfully receive any Communications on this subject, addressed to the Chairman at their Office, No. 18, in the Old Jewry; or to the Treasurer in Lombard-street, London. The Subscriptions of such as are disposed to contribute towards carrying on the design of this Society, will be received by the Treasurer, or by any Member of the Committee, or by Sir Herbert Mackworth, Bart. Dorset, Johnson, and Wilkinson, Bankers, No. 68, New-Bond-street.

N. B. The Society will give an account of their disbursements in due time.

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| J. Pattefon, Esq; ditto, | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr Archer Pearson, | 1 | 1 | |
| Miss Pelham, Esher, | 2 | 2 | |
| Miss Mary Pelham, ditto, | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr John Pemberton of Philadelphia, | 1 | 1 | |
| S. Pennington, by S. Day, Saffron-Waldon, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr Thomas Pennystone, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr R. Phillips, Redruth, Cornwall, | 5 | 5 | |
| Mr J. Phillips, George-Yard, Lombard-str. | 5 | 5 | |
| Mr Richard Phillips, Lincoln's-inn, | 5 | 5 | |
| F. Phillips, | 1 | 1 | |
| James Piercy, <i>jun.</i> Esq; Old Fish-street, | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| W. Morton Pitt, Esq; M. P. Arlington-str. | 2 | 2 | |
| Mrs H. Plumsted, Clapton, | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr Luke Pope, Upper Charlotte-street, | 2 | 2 | |
| W. Pooley, Esq; Ironmonger-lane, | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr J. H. Powell, | 2 | 2 | |
| Griffydd Price, Esq; late of Penlergare, Glamorganshire, | 2 | 2 | |
| Rev. Rich. Price, D. D. Hackney, | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr John Pitt, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr Peter Price, Penryn, Cornwall, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr John Prideaux, Plymouth, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr J. Pryor, Baldock, | 2 | 2 | |
| Rev. J. N. Puddecombe, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mrs Peckard Cambridge, | 1 | 1 | |

| R | L. | s. | d. |
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| Mr J. Ransom, | 1 | 1 | |
| C. Rashleigh, Esq; St Austle, Cornwall, | 1 | 1 | |
| Rev. Mr P. Rashleigh, | 1 | 1 | |
| Rev. William Rastall, Newark, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr W. Rathbone, Liverpool, | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| Messrs W. Rawlings and Son, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr R. Reynolds, Ketly, Salop, | 5 | 5 | |
| Mr Foster Reynolds, Mitcham, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr Thomas Reynolds, | 1 | 1 | |
| Edward Rigby, Esq; Norwich, | 1 | 1 | |
| Mr N. Robinson, Mildred-court, Poultry, | 2 | 2 | |
| Sir George Robinson, Bart. | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr John Roper, Norwich, | 5 | 5 | |

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| Mr Philip Sansom, London-street, | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr George Saunders, | 1 | 1 | |
| G. Sharp, Esq; Leadenhall-street, | 5 | 5 | |
| William Sharp, Esq; Fulham, | 5 | 5 | |
| Mr R. Sharp, | 1 | 1 | |
| Rev. J. Sharp, Arch-deacon, Northumb. | 5 | 5 | |
| Mr G. Sharp, Bishopsgate-str. | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr I. Sharpless, Hitchin, | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr J. Sheppard, Wapping-wall, | 2 | 2 | |
| W. Shewin, Esq; Galway, Ireland, | 2 | 12 | 9 |
| Baptist Smart, Esq; Ipswich, | 2 | 2 | |
| Mr Joseph Smith, Cheapside, | 2 | 2 | |

E

| | <i>L.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
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| Mr T. Bennet Smith, Three Crown-court, Southwark, | 1 | 1 |
| Mr Thomas Smith, Lombard-street, | 1 | 1 |
| William Smith, Esq; M. P. Clapham, | 5 | 5 |
| Rev. Mr Thomas Jenyns, Smith, Dulwich, | 1 | 1 |
| Mr James Smith, Norwich, | 1 | 1 |
| Mr J. J. Smith, | 1 | 1 |
| Mr M. Sperling, Colchester, | 1 | 1 |
| Mr George Stacey, Lamb's Conduit-street, | 1 | 1 |
| Mr J. Start, Halsted, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Neville Stow, Dulwich, | 5 | 5 |
| T. Streatfield, Esq; Stoke Newington, | 2 | 2 |
| Mr A. H. Sutherland, Broad-street, | 2 | 2 |
| Society instituted at Manchester for effect- ing the abolition of the Slave Trade, 105 | 0 | 0 |
| Society instituted at Birmingham for ef- fecting the abolition of the Slave Trade, 105 | 0 | 0 |

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| Mr William Taitt, Dowlais, Glamorgansh. | 1 | 1 |
| Mr J. V. Taylor, Great St Helen's, | 5 | 5 |
| William Taylor, Esq; Shrewsbury, | 5 | 5 |
| Mr William Jr. Taylor, Norwich, | 2 | 2 |
| Mr Tho. Thompson, Compton, Dorset, | 1 | 1 |
| William Thompson, Esq; | 1 | 1 |
| H. Thornton, Esq; M. P. Bartholom.-lane, | 2 | 2 |
| R. Thornton, Esq; M. P. King's arms-yard, Coleman-street, | 2 | 2 |
| Mr Hen. Tickell, Gulston-square, | 2 | 2 |
| Mrs Deborah Townsend, Smithfield-bars, | 1 | 1 |

| | <i>L. s. d.</i> |
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| Mr John Townsend, ditto, | 1 1 - |
| Mr Samuel Tregelles, Falmouth, | 1 1 |
| Mr Samuel Tregelles, jun. ditto, | 1 1 |
| Mr Joseph Tragelles, ditto, | 1 1 |
| Rev. H. Hawkins Tremaine, Cornwall, | 2 2 |
| Mr William Tuke, York, | 1 1 |
| Mr J. Furnell Tuflin, Lower Thames-Str. | 2 2 |
| S. T. by R. P. | 2 2 |

University of Cambridge.

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|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Some Members of Jesus College, | 12 12 |
| Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Landaff, | 10 10 |
| Rev. Dr Beadon, Master of Jesus, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Dr Edwards, Jesus College, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Hammond, | 1 P |
| Jesus College, | 2 2 |
| Rev. Dr Turner, Master of Pembroke, | 1 1 |

Bennet College.

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|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Rev. Dr Coleman, Mast. of Ben. Col. | 1 P |
| Rev. Mr Bradford, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Douglas, | 1 1 |
| Rev. T. Mantell, | 1 P |

Christ College.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Some Members of Christ College, | 4 14 6 |
| Rev. T. Parkinson, | 1 1 |
| Mr Leigh, | 1 1 |

Trinity Hall.

| | <i>L. s. a.</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Rev. Dr Jowett, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Woollaston, | 2 2 |

Trinity College.

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|---|--------|
| The College, | 21 0 |
| Rt. Rev. Ld. Bp. of Peterborough, Mast. | 5 5 |
| Rev. T. Jones, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Sheppard, | 1 1 |
| Rev. J. Lambert, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Collier, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Postlethwaite, | 2 2 |
| Rev. Mr Hodson, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Peck, | 1 1 |
| Mr King, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Backhouse, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Davis, | 1 1 |
| Rev. J. Porter, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Waddington, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Raine, | 1 1 |
| Rev. H. Porter, | 1 1 |
| Mr Scarlett, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Mr Heyrick, | 0 10 6 |
| Rev. Mr Berry, | 0 10 6 |
| Rev. Mr Murfiet, | 0 10 6 |

Sidney College.

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|---------------------------|-----|
| The College, | 2 2 |
| Rev. Dr Elliston, Master, | 1 1 |
| Rev. Dr Hey, | 1 1 |

| | <i>L.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Rev. Mr Coulthurst, | 1 | 1 | |
| Rev. J. Green, | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Rev. Mr Vince, | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Mr Parker, | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Rev. Mr Heslop, | 1 | 1 | |

St Peter's College.

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| The College, | 2 | 2 |
| Rev. Mr Borlase, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Veasey, | 1 | 1 |
| F. Dawes, Esq; | 1 | 1 |
| Mr More, | 1 | 1 |

Emanuel College.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|------|
| The College, | 2 | 2 |
| Rev. Dr Farmer, Master, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Bennet, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Oldershaw, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Wilcox, | 0 | 10 6 |
| Rev. Mr Cory, | 0 | 10 6 |
| Rev. Mr Wade, | 0 | 10 6 |

Magdalen.

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|--------------------------|---|---|
| Rev. Dr Peckard, Master, | 2 | 2 |
| Rev. Mr Jowett, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Farish, | 1 | 1 |

L. s. d.

Clare Hall.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------|
| The College, | 5 | 5 |
| Rev. Dr Torkington, Master, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Middleton, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Clapham, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Dudley, | 0 | 10 6 |

Caiharine Hall.

| | | |
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| The College, | 2 | 2 |
| Rev. Dr Yates, Master, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Atkinson, | 0 | 10 6 |

St John's College.

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| Rev. Mr Fawcett, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Frewen, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Salmon, | 1 | 1 |
| Rev. Mr Cockshutt, | 1 | 1 |
| Mr Catton, | 1 | 1 |
| G. Milner, | 1 | 1 |

Caius College.

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|-----------------|---|---|
| The College, | 5 | 5 |
| Rev. Mr Fisher, | 1 | 1 |

V.

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|---|---|---|
| J. Vaughan, Esq; Golden Grove Carmarth. | 5 | 5 |
| United Friars, or Society for the participation of useful knowledge, Norwich, | 4 | 4 |
| Unknown, a Person, | 2 | 2 |

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Unknown,

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| W. W. by N. Robinson, | 3 | 3 |
| John Wainman, M. D. | x | x |
| Samuel Walker, Esq; Rotherham, | 5 | 5 |
| Joshua Walker, Esq; Ditto, | 5 | 5 |
| Joseph Walker, Esq; Ditto, | 5 | 5 |
| Thomas Walker, Esq; | 5 | 5 |
| Isaac Walker, Esq; Lincoln's-inn-fields, | 2 | 2 |
| Mr Richard Walker, Manchester, | x | x |
| Mr T. Walker, Ditto, | 2 | 2 |
| Mr Samuel Wallis, | x | x |
| Rev. Job Wallace, Braxted, Essex, | x | x |
| Robert Walpole, Esq; | x | x |
| Rev. Thomas Warburton, | x | x |
| Mrs E. Waring, | 2 | 2 |
| Dr Watson, Bath, | x | x |
| Josiah Wedgwood, Esq; Etruria, | 5 | 5 |
| Rev. Mr Wyvill, Constable Burton, Yorksh. | 5 | 5 |
| Mr T. Were, Wellington, Somersetshire, | x | x |
| Mr Ellis Were, Lombard-street, | x | x |
| Mr Nicholas Wellington Were, Somersetsh. | 2 | 2 |
| R. Were, | x | x |
| N. Were, | 2 | 2 |
| Mrs Judith Weston, Walthamstow, | 5 | 5 |
| Mr Joshua Wheeler, Hitchin, | x | x |
| Mr Solomon Wheedon, Herts, | x | x |
| Mr Walter Whitaker, Shaftsbury, | 2 | 2 |

| | <i>L. s.</i> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mr Richard White, | 1 1 |
| Samuel Whitbread, Esq; M. P. | 31 10 |
| John Wilkinson, Esq; New Bond-street, | 1 1 |
| Elbro. Woodcock, Esq; Lincoln's-inn, | 5 5 |
| Mr Joseph Woods, White-hart-court, | 2 2 |
| Mr William Wood, Stock-Exchange, | 1 1 |
| Mr Thomas Workman, | 1 1 |
| Mr Matthew Wright, Bristol, | 2 2 |
| Mr John Wright, Lombard-street, | 5 5 |
| Mrs Mary Wyatt, Saffron-walden, | 2 2 |
| Captain Watson, London, | 1 1 |

**COPY Card from Dr CHARLES STEWART,
Physician, Edinburgh, dated Hay's
Street, February 18. 1788, contain-
ing Extract of a Letter from a Friend
of the Doctor's in Philadelphia, rela-
tive to freeing their Slaves there.**

DR STEWART presents best compliments to Mr Alison: Returns him thanks for the perusal of the papers relating to the Abolition of the Slave Trade. He had lately a letter from a Friend at Philadelphia, a Physician, containing the following information: "I am a member of a Society here, for the Abolition, &c. Our institution has rescued a great number of negroes unlawfully held in bondage, and continues its exertions with spirit and steadiness. We have collected a large body of

testimony

testimony respecting negroes, who borrowed money to purchase their own freedom, and repaid it, to the amount of from 40 to 80 guineas, in a couple of years, and then earned enough to purchase their wives and children : Also respecting others who obtained their freedom on easier conditions, and have since lived regularly and comfortably. Dr Franklin has attested these accounts, and they are sent over to the London Society. I have been revolving in my mind the question, Whether the labour of slaves is as profitable to the individuals who keep them, as that of hired free-servants ? I believe it is not ; and I have proposed to our Society, to collect facts upon the subject. We can easily prove, that those of our States are most wealthy and populous which have avoided slave-keeping : I believe this holds with respect to individuals. Slaves work with so much more languor than freemen, and bring on so much expence, that less benefit is derived from their labour, than from an inferior number of servants hired, &c. I shall set about the proposition, and trust to shew, that in this, and many other points of view, slavery is as inexpedient as inhuman. We live within 200 miles of several hundred thousand slaves in Virginia, and in the States further south, there is a larger proportion of them compared with whites."

